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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. JESUS MANUEL BOTELLO-RAMOS (1), Defendant.	Criminal Case No. 08CR2036BEN DECLARATION OF JESUS MANUEL BOTELLO-RAMOS (D1) EXONERATING MARIBEL MEJIA (D2)

DECLARATION

I, Jesus Manuel Botello-Ramos, hereby declare as follows:

1. On or about June 9, 2008, I knowingly and intentionally was the driver of a 2003 Chevrolet Impala bearing California license plate number 5ZDC280 (the "vehicle"), which was driven to the Calexico, California East Port of Entry ("POE").

2. At the time the vehicle described above arrived at the Calexico, California East POE, concealed within the vehicle was approximately 10.94 kilograms (24.06 pounds) of methamphetamine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance.

3. At the time I knowingly and intentionally drove the vehicle described above, I knew the vehicle contained approximately 10.94 kilograms (24.06 pounds) of methamphetamine, or some other prohibited substance.

4. At the time I knowingly and intentionally drove the vehicle described above, the co-defendant, Maribel Mejia, was a passenger in the vehicle. She had no involvement or complicity in the smuggling event apart from being a passenger in the vehicle.

5. I have informed the Government that I will plead guilty to count one of the Indictment charging me with Importation of Methamphetamine on or about June 9, 2008, within the Southern District of California, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 952 and 960.

6. If I do not plead guilty to the charge set forth above, for any reason, or thereafter withdraw my guilty plea to that charge, I agree that in any proceeding, including, but not limited to, motion hearings, trial, sentencing, appeal, or collateral attack, that the stipulated facts set forth in paragraphs 1-5 shall be admitted as substantive evidence.

7. By signing this declaration, I certify that I have read it (or that it has been read to me in my native language) and that I have discussed the terms of this declaration with defense counsel and fully understand its meaning and effect.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: 8/14

JESUS MANUEL BOTELLO-RAMOS